

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1910.

WM. L. BYHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middlesex.

MARCH 6TH, 1911.

" MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE " OFFICE, MARKET SQUARE, STAINES.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1910.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the general health and sanitary condition of the District for the year 1910.

Births.—There have been 123 births registered in the District, 68 females and 55 males, giving a birth-rate of 26.6 per 1,000 of the gross population, which for purposes of vital statistics is estimated to be the same as last year, viz., 4,730. This shows a slight increase on last year, but is rather lower than the average for the preceding ten years, which is 27.6.

Deaths.—The number of deaths annually registered in the District fluctuates very little from time to time. There have been 61 deaths this year, inclusive of 6 of residents who have died in various institutions outside the District. This is a death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 of gross population, and is slightly above last year, when it was 11.8, but compares favourably with the average for the last 10 years, which is 13.6. Of the total of 61 deaths, 22 have been of persons of 65 years of age and upwards.

Infant Mortality.—For statistical purposes an infant is understood to be a child of not more than 12 months of age. At ages ranging from a few days to 12 months 11 deaths have occurred, 5 of which have been due to debility from premature birth. The rate in this instance is 89.4 per 1,000 of births registered, and is somewhat higher than last year but below the average for the last 10 years, which is 101.6.

As I have pointed out in previous Reports, there has been a satisfactory decrease in the infant mortality during the last few years, and it is the more noticeable from the fact that so many mothers in the District are employed in various occupations, such as laundry and market garden hands and factory workers, whereby they are unable to give due attention to their offspring in the early stages of its existence. The Notification of Births Act has not been adopted, so can have no bearing on the subject.

There are no regular Health Visitors appointed by the Authority, but excellent work is being done in teaching and training by the Parish Nurse in houses where her services are required. District Visitors also help in this respect.

A table is here inserted for comparison between the various rates of the year with those of the County of Middlesex and England and Wales for the year 1909, the returns for the two latter divisions for 1910 being not yet complete:—

	Sunbury, 1910.	Middlesex, 1909.	England and Wales, 1909.
Birth Rate	26.6	24.5	25.6
Death Rate	12.8	11.4	14.5
Infant Mortality ...	89.4	89	109

As so often happens in years which are notable for heavy rainfall, this year will be found to have been a healthy one.

There have been very few cases of infectious disease notified—15 cases in all. Ten of these have been diphtheria, four erysipelas, and one case of enteric fever. One case of erysipelas with complications proved fatal, and there was also a fatal case of diphtheria in an adult male, but the complaint was contracted and death occurred in an Institution outside the district. It is indeed fortunate that with this small number of infectious diseases no difficulty has been found in efficient isolation, but with no Isolation Hospital available, the fear of an epidemic is increased. There have been no cases of scarlet fever reported, and there were only two last year.

The scheme for a Joint Hospital for this and other neighbouring districts seems unlikely to materialise for the present, but it would seem that the inevitable rate which would have to be levied in this western extremity of Middlesex, for the establishment and upkeep of such an Institution, would be money well spent from a public health point of view.

I am authorised by my Council to take swabs of suspicious cases of diphtheria at their expense. This is of great assistance, and an invaluable aid in the suppression of what might become an epidemic. The School Medical Officers have rendered valuable assistance in the taking of swabs, and isolation of contacts.

In going through the records of the past year, it is well to find that there have been only 4 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption. There were 8 deaths from this disease last year. The general practitioner is faced with a very serious difficulty when he has to deal with a case of consumption in a small house, with perhaps rather more than its fair share of occupants.

Letters of admission into what is practically the only Institution for the treatment of this disease in the entire county of Middlesex, are not easily obtained, and out-patient treatment is of very little avail. It is generally recognised nowadays that the only rational treatment of this complaint is the open air one, and apparently the only means of treating a poor person on these lines is for the fortunate possessor of an in-patient letter for Brompton Hospital, to be drafted from there to the branch at Frimley.

Then again, very properly, only cases in the earlier stages of the disease are dealt with at this very valuable Institution. The unfortunately afflicted individual perforce remains at home, obtaining little or no benefit to himself, and severely menacing the health of the other members of the household. I say it with all seriousness that it is, in my opinion, a positive scandal that the County of Middlesex has under its control no single Institution for the open air treatment of consumption.

Surely here is to hand an eminently satisfactory way of raising a monument to the memory of our late lamented and beloved Sovereign King Edward VII., who, in his lifetime, spent so much time and thought to relieving and curing the afflicted. I raise this question and refer to it somewhat in length as this particular district so much feels the want of an Institution for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, free or on reasonable terms.

There is a system of voluntary notification in the case of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, and disinfection of the premises is carried out by the local authority.

The question of the dust nuisance has been dealt with in a fairly satisfactory manner.

The surface tarring of the Staines Road has been beneficial to the residents, but this "cuts up" badly in very wet weather, particularly after frost, and cannot be compared to the advantages derivable from the short length of the road which has been treated experimentally with tar macadam. I believe that the expense is the only reason for not treating the whole of the main roads in this way, but one may well hope for an extension of this very valuable asset to public health.

A very notable improvement to a portion of the District has been the making up of Railway Place with tar macadam. A capital job has been made of this, and there is every prospect of similar improvement being effected elsewhere. I may mention that the two places most requiring attention are Green Lane and Layton's Lane, and that tenders for the former have been already issued. It is in places such as these that children suffer from spending hours at school with wet boots, the result of wading through mud and water on their way there. While on the subject of school children I may mention that there is room for much improvement in the ventilation of the St. Mary's Parochial Schools. I have visited them on many occasions when classes were going on, and found much to be desired in this respect.

It is perhaps too much to hope for something in the way of Public Baths and Washhouses, but from the condition of many of the children, it would appear to be very desirable, though obviously far more might be done at their homes than is at present effected.

I would here mention that the proper brushing of the teeth and washing of the mouth is little either understood or accomplished by a great majority of children attending school. Any improvement in this respect can only be brought about by some method of education. Perhaps some simple lecture on general hygiene might be conducive to the good of the rising generation.

The question is in my opinion an important one, and deserving of attention. The reports of School Medical Officers on the defective state of the teeth will support my contention.

An arrangement instituted by the County Medical Officer of Health for the notification of children absent from school from various reasons by the teachers to the Medical Officer of Health for the District, and vice versa, and also to the County Medical Officer of Health, works well. The medical inspection of school children is not dealt with by the Local Authority, but by medical inspectors specially appointed by the County.

An event well worthy of notice during the past year was the opening to the public of the river frontage known as King's Lawn. It is apparently much appreciated, and affords a convenient and desirable means of obtaining fresh air under comfortable conditions. The only regret is that the accommodation is not greater. For a riverside place, the river frontage is peculiarly limited, due to bad building planning in the past. But there is scope for improvement in this matter, as there is land available if it can only be procured on reasonable terms.

The Public Bathing Place is a distinct advantage, is well patronised in the summer months, and is obviously conducive to health.

The principal industries of the District are the manufacture of wall-paper, Linerusta, millboard, and market gardening on a somewhat large scale. There would appear to be nothing injurious to health in any of these occupations.

From the number of unoccupied houses it is clear that there is no lack of accommodation for the working classes. Most of these dwellings have a reasonable amount of garden space and are healthily situated; 95 per cent. of the houses are supplied by the public water service with water of good quality and the same number are connected with the main sewer, and from time to time others are being connected.

The disposal of sewage is carried out efficiently on the Broad Irrigation principle on land conveniently isolated from dwelling houses on the western extremity of the District. No complaints have been lodged of any nuisance from this source, nor could there well be any, for from personal observation none exists.

The dairies and cowsheds are well kept and ventilated, and due attention is paid to the proper cleansing of utensils and of the persons of those employed in the milking of the cows. A very good character of milk is produced in all cases

of dairies on the Register. There is no Veterinary Surgeon appointed for the examination of cows supplying the milk of the District, and this might well receive attention.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the "Sale of Foods and Drugs Act." There is one slaughter-house, which is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

House refuse is collected weekly in the more thickly populated districts, and fortnightly in those outlying. There is no Destructor in use, but the refuse is disposed of in a fairly satisfactory manner.

There is a well appointed Mortuary in an isolated and at the same time central position, within easy reach of the room where inquests are held.

Disinfection of affected premises is carried out by means of Formalin Vapour and a MacKenzie Spray.

The bakehouses are kept clean and whitewashed, and the sanitary arrangements for those employed in them is satisfactory. There are no underground bakehouses.

In each Report I have to draw attention to a nuisance created by the unloading of manure of a very objectionable character from the Railway siding, which is in close proximity to many dwelling houses. This is a bona fide nuisance, and there has been no abatement of it during the past year.

There are no lodging houses or offensive trades in the District.

My thanks are due to the Council for the way in which they have supported any suggestion of mine which appeared to them conducive to the general health and sanitation of the District, and I would here wish to record the loss which the neighbourhood has recently sustained in the death of the late Chairman of the Council, Mr. William Harris, and my own appreciation of the generous and willing support I personally received from him at all times. He always brought to bear on any subject under discussion dealing with Public Health the wisdom of mature experience combined with sound common sense.

Throughout the year I have received very able assistance from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. F. Coales, who is doing, as in the past he has done, very valuable work to the advantage of the community; as also for the preparation of the tables and sanitary work carried out during the year, and which appears as a supplement to this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. L. BYHAM.

Sunbury-of-Thames Urban District Council.

SANITARY WORK, 1910.

The Inspector of Nuisances is **Mr. HAROLD F. COALES, M.R.San.Inst.**, who is also Surveyor to the Council. He is assisted in the office by a youth aged 16 years.

*Inspections—

Number of Premises inspected on complaint (1)	23
Number of Premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases (2)	11
Number of Premises under periodical Inspection (3)	18
Houses inspected from house-to-house (4)	227
Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made (5)	1116

*N.B.—(3) Includes all classes of premises under periodical supervision, such as Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Workshops and Workplaces, etc.
(5) Includes all visits and re-visits made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with 1—4.

Notices—

Cautionary or Intimation Notices given	58
Statutory Orders issued	—
Summonses served	—
Convictions obtained	—

Dwelling Houses—

Houses, Premises, etc., cleansed, repaired, etc.	40
Closed as unfit for habitation, as result of action under H.W.C. Acts or otherwise	—
Re-opened after repairs, alterations, etc.	—
Demolished	—
Illegal Underground Dwellings vacated	—

Common Lodging Houses—

Number Registered under Bye-Laws (none in District).

Movable Dwellings, Caravans, Tents, etc.—

Number observed during the year	25
Number of Nuisances therefrom abated	—
Number removed from District	25

Bakehouses—

Number in District	5
Contraventions of Factory Acts	—

Slaughterhouses—

Number on Register (no register kept, but only one slaughterhouse in district).	
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly)	2
Contraventions of Bye-laws	—

Cowsheds—

Number on Register	7
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (regularly twice yearly, oftener as required)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—
Number of Milch Cows in District	124

Dairies and Milkshops—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (regularly twice yearly, oftener as required)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—

Water Supply and Water Service—

Wells—Cleansed, Repaired, etc.	2
Closed as Polluted	3
Percentage of Houses supplied from Public Water Service	96
Cisterns—Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, etc.	—
New Provided	13
Percentage of Houses supplied on Constant System	96
Number of Samples obtained for analysis from Local Wells	2

Drainage and Sewerage of Existing Buildings—

Water Closets—	
Repaired, supplied with water, or otherwise improved	15
Percentage of Houses provided with Water Closets	96
Drains—	
Examined, Tested, Exposed, etc.	11
Unstopped, Repaired, Trapped, etc.	20
Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes Disconnected, Repaired, etc.	11
New Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts Fixed	11
Existing Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts Repaired	—
Disconnecting Traps or Chambers Inserted	3
Reconstructed	1
Cesspools—	
Rendered Impervious, Emptied, Cleansed, etc.	1
Abolished, and Drain connected to Sewer	11
Percentage of Houses Draining into Sewers	95

Disinfection—

Rooms Disinfected—Ordinary infectious diseases 15, Phthisis 3	18
Rooms Stripped and Cleansed	18
Articles Disinfected or Destroyed	—

Dust—

New Bins provided	3
How frequently is dust removed from each house? † Weekly	
Number of Complaints of Non-Removal received	4
Method of Disposal—	
Tipping	8

Sundry Nuisances Abated—

Overcrowding	2
Accumulations of Refuse	4
Foul Pigs and other Animals	1
Dampness	4
Yards repaved or repaired	1
Other Nuisances	2

† Fortnightly from Upper Halliford and Charlton,

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and
previous Years.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Number.	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number.	Rate.*			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13
1900	4540	142	31.2	13	91.5	63	14	--	63	14
1901	4619	131	28.3	17	129.8	63	13.6	—	63	13.6
1902	4700	134	28.6	15	80	58	12.5	—	58	12.5
1903	4781	141	29.4	17	120.5	60	12.5	—	60	12.5
1904	4580	145	31.6	23	158.6	86	18.7	2	88	19.3
1905	4750	138	29	17	123.2	52	10.9	6	58	12.2
1906	4680	115	24.5	11	99.6	52	11.1	19	71	15.1
1907	4680	123	26.2	9	73.1	49	10.4	6	55	11.7
1908	4730	109	23.0	7	64.2	53	11.2	11	64	13.5
1909	4730	118	24.9	9	76.2	48	10.1	8	56	11.8
Averages for years 1900 1909	4679	129.6	27.6	13.8	101.6	58.4	12.5	—	63.6	13.6
1910	4730	123	26.6	11	89.4	55	11.6	6	61	12.8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2660

Total Population at all ages	4544	} At Census of 1901.
Number of Inhabited Houses	938	
Average number of Persons per house	4.84	

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total cases Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	10	—	3	7	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	15	—	3	8	—	2	2	—

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup) ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Epidemic Influenza.. ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diarrhoea	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	4	—	—	—	2	2	—
Cancer, malignant disease..	5	—	—	—	—	2	3
Bronchitis	3	—	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	3	—	—	1	—	—	2
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Alcoholism	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Premature Birth	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
Heart diseases	7	—	—	—	1	5	1
Accidents	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
All other causes .. .	22	4	1	1	—	4	12
All causes	61	11	2	2	3	21	22

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1910.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year
of Age.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under One Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under One Month.	2-3 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	{	Certified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	..
		Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, all forms				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Premature Birth				3	1	1	—	5	—	1	—	—	6
Congenital Defects				1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..				—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	3
				4	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	1	11

Population, estimated to middle of 1910 . . . 4730

Births in the year	{	Legitimate	121	Deaths in the year of	{	Legitimate Infants	11
		Illegitimate	2			Illegitimate Infants	

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages . . . 61